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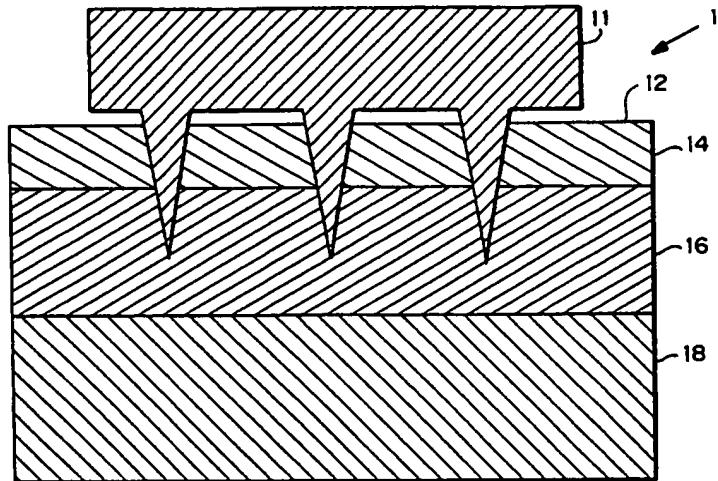
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(54) Title: DEVICES AND METHODS FOR ENHANCED MICRONEEDLE PENETRATION OF BIOLOGICAL BARRIERS



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(57) Abstract: Microneedle devices are provided for delivery of drugs across biological tissue and for controlled sampling of biological fluids in a minimally-invasive, painless, and convenient manner. The devices permit 1) drug delivery at clinically relevant rates across or into skin or other tissue barriers, and/or 2) in vivo sensing or withdrawal of biological fluids from the body, particularly from or through the skin or other tissue barriers. Drug delivery devices preferably include a plurality of hollow microneedles attached to or integrated into a substrate, and at least one reservoir (containing drug) selectively in communication with the microneedles, wherein the amount of drug to be delivered can be selectively altered. Withdrawal or sensing microneedle devices preferably include microneedles attached to or integrated into a substrate, and at least one collection chamber and/or sensor in communication with the microneedles.



patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE,
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CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/US 00/15312

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 A61M37/00 A61B10/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 A61M A61B A61N

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 3 964 482 A (GERSTEL MARTIN S ET AL) 22 June 1976 (1976-06-22)	1-5, 9-12, 22, 23, 29-32, 41, 50-52
A	the whole document	40, 55, 60, 77, 120
X	EP 0 497 620 A (UNIV CARNEGIE MELLON) 5 August 1992 (1992-08-05)	1-4, 13, 23, 40, 41, 52
A	column 5, line 43 - line 56; figures	55, 60, 77, 120

		-/-

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

X document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

Y document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

& document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	DE 195 25 607 A (BOEHRINGER INGELHEIM KG) 16 January 1997 (1997-01-16)	1-7, 13, 23, 40, 41, 55, 58
A	column 3, line 30 -column 5, line 30; figures	60, 62, 65, 77, 120
X	---	40, 120
A	WO 98 28037 A (ALZA CORP) 2 July 1998 (1998-07-02) the whole document	1-3, 6, 41-66, 77
X	---	40, 77, 78, 87, 89, 96, 110, 118, 119, 121
A	WO 98 00193 A (EPPSTEIN JONATHAN A ;SPECTRX INC (US); ALTEA TECHNOLOGIES INC (US)) 8 January 1998 (1998-01-08)	1, 41, 55-66
A	abstract; figures	55-66
P, X	---	1-36, 40-66
A	WO 99 64580 A (GEORGIA TECH RES INST) 16 December 1999 (1999-12-16) the whole document	77, 120
A	---	55-66
A	US 5 865 786 A (ROSEN SANFORD ET AL) 2 February 1999 (1999-02-02) column 12, line 53 -column 13, line 10; figures	55-66
X	---	40, 55-66, 77, 78, 89, 96, 110, 121
	WO 98 00194 A (SONTRA MEDICAL L P) 8 January 1998 (1998-01-08)	
	page 18, line 11 -page 21, line 24; figures	

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORTInternational application No.
PCT/US 00/15312**Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)**

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: 37-39, 67-76
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
Rule 39.1(iv) PCT – Method for treatment of the human or animal body by therapy
2. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. Claims: 1-36,41-54

A device for transport of material across or into a biological barrier comprising a plurality of hollow microneedles, a substrate to which the microneedles are attached, a reservoir in connection with at least one of the microneedles, wherein the volume or amount of material to be transported can selectively be altered.

2. Claim : 40

A kit for delivering a therapeutic fluid comprising a plurality of hollow microneedles, a substrate to which the microneedles are attached a reservoir in communication with the microneedles and a triggering device to activate delivery of the agent from reservoir through the microneedles.

3. Claims: 55-66

A device for sensing an analyte in a biological fluid, comprising a plurality of microneedles, a substrate to which the microneedles are attached and at least a sensor in communication with the microneedles.

4. Claims: 77-121

A device for transport of material across a biological barrier comprising a microneedle, a substrate to which the microneedle is attached and means for improving penetration of the biological barrier by the microneedle.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US 00/15312

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Information on patent family members

International Application No
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